

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-42. (Cancelled)

43. (New) A method for inducing an analgesic response to neuropathic pain in a mammal, said method comprising administering to the mammal, flupirtine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in combination with an opioid selected from the list consisting of fentanyl, oxycodone, codeine, dihydrocodeine, dihydrocodeinone enol acetate, morphine, desomorphine, apomorphine, diamorphine, pethidine, methadone, dextropropoxyphene, pentazocine, dextromoramide, oxymorphone, hydromorphone, dihydromorphone, noscapine, papverine, papveretum, alfentanil, buprenorphine and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives, homologs or analogs thereof, in an amount effective to reduce the level of or to otherwise ameliorate the sensation of pain.

44. (New) The method of claim 43 further comprising the administration of the opioid concurrently or sequentially to the flupirtine.

45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the opioid is morphine, fentanyl, oxycodone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. (New) The method of any one of claims 43 to 45 wherein the opioid does not induce overt sedation in the presence of flupirtine.

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47. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein flupirtine is administered in an amount of about 0.5 mg/kg to about 20 mg/kg of body weight.

48. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the mammal is human.